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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I'll try to be brief.

I've used every product listed in the DOJ case against Microsoft. I feel fairly expert in the field, and was an active audience in the browser wars.

I'm convinced that although aggressive, Microsoft's dominance was due to providing superior products, on better schedules, that met more customers needs.

It seems tragic that political forces, driven by industries in their constituency, would manipulate the system to fight a competitor when they failed to do so by producing better products.

I believe that the case so far has harmed Microsoft and the industry in ways we won't know for years to come. I point towards Europe's growing eagerness to attack American companies as evidence that our government is not working in our best interests here. They sense that our government will not only refrain from protecting its business assets, but will in fact paradoxically and masochistically set its own citizenry up for the fall.

I don't know what the settlement should be. The one proposed sounded fine to me. Amending it such that schools would have equal access to Apple software would be interesting, but from my experience with helping out at local schools most of them consider Apple products unmerited luxury items.

Please consider that Microsoft has already been damaged from the proceedings so far. Recognize that superior products win out over inferior products and inferior products should not be protected from that. Be wise.

Richard Bretschneider